

# Now Accepting Applications for Local Food for Schools Grant



The Local Food for Schools (LFS) funding opportunity is available for Montana school districts to increase purchases of local and regional foods for service in the National School Lunch Program. Montana Office of Public Instruction has \$727,981 available to award via sub-grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$30,000 to Montana school districts for the 2023-2024 school year.

The goal of this program is to improve access to locally produced foods along with building long-lasting relationships with local and regional suppliers while bettering the supply chain system. LFS funding can help strengthen the food system for our Montana schools by building a fair, competitive, and resilient local food chain, and expand local and regional markets with an emphasis on purchasing from historically underserved producers and processors.

OPI School Nutrition Program is pleased to announce the acceptance of applications from participating National School Lunch Program Sponsors is now open.

**Applications are due no later than September 29, 2023.**

Three Options to submit are listed below:

- ☐ **Preferred Option:** Fill out application in Google Forms
  - [LFS ONLINE APPLICATION](#)
- ☐ **Option 2:** [Email PDF version of LFS Application](#)
  - Complete the application. Save the completed application and email to [amber.lyman@mt.gov](mailto:amber.lyman@mt.gov)
- ☐ **Option 3:** Manually Fill Out Application and Send Electronically
  - Print out the [PDF version of LFS Application](#) and complete it by hand.
  - Scan and email to [amber.lyman@mt.gov](mailto:amber.lyman@mt.gov)
    - Please note that only pages 6-8, which is the LFS application section, need to be emailed.

Please contact Amber Lyman, Local Foods for School Sub-Grant Manager at 406-444-4415, [amber.lyman@mt.gov](mailto:amber.lyman@mt.gov) or the School Nutrition Programs office at 406-444-2501 if you have questions or need assistance.

## **LFS Resource and Guidance**

- [Local Foods for Schools Online Application](#)
- [Local Foods for Schools Instructions](#)
- [Local Produce Procurement Checklist](#)
- [MSU Roadmap to Quality School Meals](#)
- [Montana Harvest of the Month](#)
- [Procurement Guidelines](#)
- [USDA Local Foods for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program](#)
- [Wednesday Webinar LFS Grant Presentation- September 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm](#)